

Subject: Re: PROBLEM ALERT - Solicitation of Bids for Maxine Waters Grant Project

From: Chad Molnar <chad.molnar@lacity.org>

Date: 02/05/2014 08:34 AM

To: Donald Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>

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Hi Don,

I would be happy to sit in on a meeting with BOE if you think it would help, but I can't do it Friday.

Who is your contact at BOE? I can call them and get some background, and let them know we're interested.

--

Chad Molnar

Chief of Staff

Councilmember Mike Bonin

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On Feb 5, 2014, at 7:36 AM, Donald Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com> wrote:

It's embarrassing to be emailing a Councilman and his Chief of Staff about such a mundane aspect of municipal operations. It's necessary because the Bureau of Engineering has proven to be so insular and resistant to any big picture guidance on the Maxine Waters Grant Project, which has proven to create such public failure for all affected. Well, we are fearful that "they're doing it again" and this email is being written to try to head that off by

asking for City Councilman / Chief of Staff action.

The Problem

"What if the project bids come in for more than the available funding?," our project engineer was asked. (Let's see, what is the likelihood that a City project construction bid will come in over it's 'engineer's cost estimate'?)

"Well then the City will have to come up with more money," was the response.

There is no more money.

"Well then, we'll just have to cut the project back and only do a portion of it," responded the thoughtful engineer. "We'll reduce the length of the improvements."

"Why not bid the project with carefully crafted 'additive alternates' or 'deductive alternates' that could best be manageable/deliverable by the community either as a volunteer effort(s) or as smaller work increments that could be undertaken either before or after the City work?"

"The community is not qualified to make such suggestions. BOE will handle this and inform you of our decisions."

The problem seems clear here.

A Solution

No one can really guarantee any particular outcome in an open bid process.

If all of the project stakeholders work together to craft mutually acceptable outcomes, however, wouldn't the end result probably be more satisfactory/manageable for all?

The Maxine Waters Grant Project community sponsors are meeting with BOE in the Westchester Office of CD11 on Friday, February 7 at 10:00 AM and we are hoping for positive change where that has not been the past practice.

The cause for such optimism would be City Councilman / Chief of Staff problem solving involvement.

Please count on me to assist in any way that I can. Just let me know what you need.

Thank you.